

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 L-01 OPR-01 /045 W

----- 124664

R 210600Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9441

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3191

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CB, UK

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH UK CHARGE ON POTENTIAL EVACUATION

REF: STATE 38482 (NOTAL)

1. IN A CONVERSATION ON FEBRUARY 20 WITH UK CHARGE DAVID MCKILLIGIN ON OTHER MATTERS, SUBJECT OF E&E PLANNING CAME UP. MEMBERS OF SMALL UK EMBASSY STAFF, THOUGH NOT NON-OFFICIAL UK RESIDENT NATIONALS, HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS EMBASSY'S CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR EVACUATION.

2. UK CHARGE MADE OBVIOUS POINT THAT AS LONG AS POCHENTONG AIRFIELD IS OPEN FOR FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, NO ONE HAS A REAL EVACUATION PROBLEM. IN MORE SERIOUS SITUATION IN WHICH HELICOPTER EVACUATION WOULD BE REQUIRED, CHARGE SAID HE HAD JUST RECOMMENDED TO LONDON THAT HIS EMBASSY STAFF REMAIN BEHIND TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF SOME 30 TO 40 RESIDENT UK CITIZENS WHO WOULD HAVE NO POSSIBILITY OF LEAVING. HE THOUGHT BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT ACCEPT IDEA OF EMBASSY STAFF FLYING OUT IN AMERICAN HELICOPTERS WHILE LEAVING BEHIND OWN NATIONALS TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. HE HAD AS YET RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO THIS RECOMMENDATION.

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3. MCKILLIGIN'S REPLACEMENT, DONALD MIDDLETON, IS DUE TO ARRIVE HERE FEBRUARY 25, AND IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN OFFICE COMMENT HE MAY SEE SITUATION DIFFERENTLY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER UK EMBASSY STAFF AS POTENTIAL E&E CLIENTS UNTIL WE RECEIVE A FIRMER INDICATION THAT THEY HAVE OPTED OUT.

4. WITH RESPECT TO REFTTEL, WHICH ARRIVED AFTER CONVERSATION REPORTED ABOVE, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAKE CLEAR TO BRITISH EMBASSY THAT OUR EVACUATION PLAN DOES NOT AND CANNOT INCLUDE BRITISH SUBJECTS OTHER THAN SMALL BRITISH EMBASSY STAFF HERE, NOW NUMBERING ABOUT NINE PERSONS. IN THE EVENT BRITISH EMBASSY ASKS FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THIS POSITION, DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO RESPOND THAT SO LONG AS POCHENTONG AIRPORT REMAINS OPEN FOR FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, EVACUATION POSES NO PROBLEM, AS BRITISH EMBASSY HERE WOULD ASK FOR RAF AIRCRAFT TO FLY OUT STAFF AND BRITISH CITIZENS. PROBLEM ARISES ONLY IN EVENT SUDDEN CLOSING OF AIRPORT MAKES HELICOPTER EVACUATION NECESSARY. IN THIS INSTANCE, USG SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT AIRLIFT ASSETS AVAILABLE TO ENSURE EVACUATION OF NON-OFFICIAL NATIONALS OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. THIS POINT, AS CAN BE SEEN BY REMARKS OF CHARGE IN PARA 2 ABOVE, IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY BRITISH EMBASSY HERE.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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